

A History of Adolphus R. Duke, written by himself in Feb. 1933.....

A history of A. R. Duke, a great man, by A. R. Duke a great historian. I was born like most people are, on Nov. 16, 1882, at Heber City in an old house at the present site of my mother's home, Lot Block Heber City survey. (388 N. 200 E.) in Heber City, Utah. My father was Robert Duke, my mother was Anna Josephine Peterson. I was the oldest of eight children, the others being J. Pratt Duke, Mabel R. Duke Jorgensen, Seymour B. Duke and Sterling S. Duke (twins), Mina LaPrele Duke Stevens, Bonnie Duke Allen and Gerald Boyd Duke.

I spent my younger days at home. My early playmates were David Horrocks, Lyman Duke, Hyrum and Joseph Shanks, Wesley V. Duke, Joe Duke, Monroe Duke, Edward Tracy, Fred Hayes, John Tracy, Wiff and Joe Kurdock and Joe Bush Kurdock. Some of my earliest girl friends were Josie Kurdock Bronson, Josephine Shanks, Verna Ohlweiler, Maud Clyde, Annie Hatch and Emma Giles Carlile.

Went to school when I was 6 years old at the old Rock School House that stood where the present Heber 1st Ward Chapel now stands (325 E. 2nd N.) My first teacher was John Aird who is now a medical doctor. I also went to school at the old Relief Society Hall; one block east of the old Duncan House, where Clara Clyde now lives, (90 E. 2nd N.) Other teachers were E. B. Clyde, C. J. Call, Attewall Wootton. Also an old rock school in the 2nd Ward, across the street from John Witts home. I also went to the old rock building known as old Carter Hall, one block west from the old John McDonald home also one block west from the old John Duke home. (The John Duke home was on Main street and 4th North). I went to the Central school, a big rock building (3rd S. and Main) which burned up a few years ago, here I graduated from the eighth grade under Henry E. Aird, one of the best if not the best teacher I ever had. The following graduated with me: Thomas Todd, Jensen, Lafayette Giles, Dr. Ray Hatch, Ada Cummings, Ruth Hicken Dickson, Le Roy Bond Duke, Gladys McMullen Davis (deceased) and Verna Kurdock.

I went to the Brigham Young Academy in Provo, now B.Y.U., in 1903. I went there for five consecutive years which I enjoyed very much. Studied some orchestra and band music, also mathematics and engineering. I played E Flat Alto in the BYU Band for 2 or 4 years under professor Albert Miller, a very capable musician. The 2nd year I began to play Trombone and got a job playing in the Heber Orchestra which consisted at that time, of Andrew S. Anderson (violin), Ray Hatch (clarinet), Clyde Willis (cornet), Joe Duke (piano), and A. R. Duke (trombone). I had only been playing trombone about 6 weeks when I got the job, which was a help to me because I came home every Friday to play to the dances, then held in the Turner Hall, now the Turner Garage, (on about 235 N. Main). I made enough money playing to dances to keep me in school for 3 years. Of course I did not spend very much, but we batched and got along fine. I had as much money in the spring when school was out as I did in the fall when it started.

I had many pleasant times at the B.Y.U. Being in the Brass Band we got to go on trips around the state on Athletic Exc. Co. I remember going to Salt Lake several times and to Ogden and Logan. I also helped survey the block Y on Y mountain just east of Provo.

I graduated from B.Y.U. High School in June 1906. I also played French horn in Prof. Miller's Orchestra for two or three years. We played to all the shows in Provo Opera House for 2 years which I enjoyed very much.

When about 13 years old, Father used to send me and my younger brother Pratt to the North field to grub willows that grew on our land up there, for a month or two during the summer. We sure hated to go up there but for 3 or 4 years we used to go there during the summer. Pratt and I used to drive a team to the field, we had one pony and a big black mare, and it seemed to me we had a runaway nearly every day.

About 1897 Father bought claims on land three miles south and east of Heber. It was school land and in about 4 or 5 years claims on 160 acres, and when the state sold the land, he bought it for about \$3.00 per acre. He later sold 40 acres to his brother A. Y. Duke.

I worked on the farm with father until about 1910 when the power plant was built, when I began to work in the electric business. I took a correspondence course in Electrical Engineering, which helped me some. I began wiring houses with E. Parley, Cliff and Claude Willis. Mr. Cliff had charge of the work for the city, I worked with him a few months then Claude Willis and I bought the city's supplies and began to work for ourselves. We worked about a year when we dissolved partnership and I took over the business. My brother Pratt was with me for a while, until he began carpentering. I wired more than half the houses in Heber, and many in Midway, Charleston, Daniel and Wallisburg. I wired the Heber Mercantile Co. store, the Heber Exchange store, The Markatch High School, this is the biggest job I have had, Heber 1st Ward Chapel, 2nd Ward Chapel, Ideal Picture show, Pikes Peak Garage, Jonsen Hotel, Jeffs Hotel, and the Keetley school.

Adolphus R. Duke

I was baptized when 8 hours old. I was baptized in Spring Creek about a mile west of the Heber Depot, in what is now Joseph Anderson's pasture. Father was on a mission at the time, and I went with Roger Horrocks who was taking his son David to be baptized. We went in his wagon to the stream, some people had buggies to ride in then, but most people used a wagon. Baptized 16 Aug. 1891 by Wm. McMillan.

I was ordained a Deacon by--

A Priest by Robert Duke 9 Jan. 1907

An Elder by Robert Duke 1 Apr. 1907

A seventy by--

A High Priest by Apostle Steven L. Richards April 29, 1917.

In Dec. 27, 1916, I went to Los Angeles with a cattle train. I went down to spend a few months in an automobile school. (Crissie and baby Lucile went with me). I arrived there Jan. 2, 1917. There was a number of people from here going to school-- Joe Hyllton, Aron Davis, Averett Murdock and others. In January 1917 Father was released as 1st of the Heber 1st Ward, a position he held for 20 years or more, and George Frank Ryan was selected in his stead. I was chosen as 2nd Counsellor, John H. Miller was first counsellor. I held this position for 6 or 7 years, when Bishop Ryan was released as bishop to become 2nd counsellor in the Stake Presidency. About that time I was made an alternate High Councilman and have served on the High Council up to the present, Feb. 1933. I am also serving as chairman of the music committee of the Wasatch Stake at present. I served as ward teacher most of the time for the last 25 years and am still one. Was ward clerk under Bishop George Stanley for 2 years.

I was appointed clerk of the Draft Board in 1917 and served until the spring of 1919 when the work was finished. This was quite an experience for me in these stressing times, was a good place to learn about people, see how some would try to find excuses to keep their boy home, and how others wanted their boys to do their share.

I took an examination in the Civil Service of the U.S. for Rural Free Delivery Carrier in Provo, Jan. 1918, and was appointed carrier in the Charleston, Utah, Route #1 April 17, 1918, which position I still hold. (He retired Dec. 1952)

In about 1904 I began to flirt around with a girl named Crissie Lindsay. I believe the first time I went home with her was from a party at my Grandma Duke's. She was a mighty fine girl and I kept hanging around and she let me, so our friendship grew until it was more than friendship and June 12, 1907 we were married in the Salt Lake Temple by John R. Winder. We had a one day honeymoon, (the day after we were married) in Salt Lake City. We came home June 14, to our little house which was already to live in before we were married. Crissie's father gave her part of his lot, the south side, and her brother Will gave us an old two room house that stood on his land 2 miles east of Heber. We had Andrew Lake move it to the lot, and we built two more rooms on it, so we had 4 nice rooms and a pantry. We thought it was fixed up very nice and we lived in it for 17 years, when we moved into our present home, 6 rooms and a bath.

Our children were all born in the old house.

Virginia born Oct. 7, 1903

Kenneth Lindsay Feb. 22, 1912

Lucile Apr. 14, 1915

Maryann May 3, 1922

They are a mighty fine family of boy and girls, and are all doing excellently well, and so far have never given their parents very much worry. All wanted to go to school and were good students, at least average or above. They always went to Sunday School and Mutual except Maryann who is not old enough to go to Mutual yet. They are all pretty good leaders and have been given responsible positions in the Church and school and civic organizations. They should be good kids as they have a wonderful Mother who has taught them.

I am very pleased to have my son in the mission field and to know he is doing a very good work and that I have been privileged to assist in keeping him there, it has been a source of joy and satisfaction to me. It has also been a source of satisfaction to know what the girls have done, even to little Maryann who has given some wonderful talks in Sunday School and other places, on subjects taught in Sunday School.



Pratt Duke
(bro. to Adolphus R Duke)

Pratt Duke